

In sending specimens of plants for investigation it is desirable to include the entire plant; if it is too large, portions showing leaves, flowers, and fruit are sufficient. It is best to prepare the specimens by drying them under pressure between folds of absorbent paper, otherwise the parts may shrink and break so as to be hardly recognizable. When dried plants are sent they should be protected from breakage in the mail by being inclosed in sheets of paper between pieces of stiff pasteboard. If specimens are to be sent fresh, moisten them slightly and pack them tightly in a box or in a bundle, wrapping them in heavy paper. Packages weighing less than four pounds can be sent by mail at the rate of one cent per two ounces. Write the name of the sender on the outside. In the letter accompanying the specimens state where each plant was collected, the date, the name of the collector, and add any other notes in regard to the economic value of the plant.

U. S. Department of Agriculture,

Botanical Division,

Washington, D. C., October 27 1891.

Dr. Serrus Watson,

Harvard University herbarium,

Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Dr. Watson:

In examining the plants of the Death Valley Expedition, I have experienced a great deal of difficulty in identifying my crucifers, with the specimens that we have here and the limited literature that has been published. Without waiting to ask you if you will do the job, I have sent you by mail to-day all the specimens of *Arabis* and several additional things. Will you be kind enough to identify them for me?

I have sent with the plants one set of labels, so as to get your autograph ^{identifications} ~~labels~~, and I have enclosed other blank labels for your use. Please return to us the first set and, after taking out a set for Harvard, the duplicates.

The numbers in the package are as follows: 406, 426, 504, 509, 591, 611, 635, 776 (two dates),

778 (two dates), 942, 1175, 1201, 1332, 1345 (two dates), 1350, 1388,
1389, 1450, 1487, 1492, 1515, 1541, 1547, 1747, 1807.

No 942 looks like an unusually large form of *Dielymbrium diffusum* and it grows in precisely similar conditions.

No 1541 appears to be *Draba ventosa* but we have too little material of allied *Drabas*.

Nos 1492, 1515, 1547 are *Arabis platysperma*, I suppose, but strangely are uniformly glabrous, the ciliation of the leaves excepted.

I am sorry that I cannot give
you altitudes with each label, but our to-
pographers have not worked out our camp
altitudes.

Yours very sincerely,

Frederick V. Coville,

Assistant Botanist